

The Flivver Flash

The Official Newsletter of the Space City T's - Houston, TX

Simms Fire Truck Body Move

by Bobby Wright

Let's be honest. We all don't "fit" our cars very well. I hear this all the time: "People were smaller in the teens and twenties". Now I ain't using any names here except my own, but some of us are just too tall, and some of use are just too round for our T's. Myself, I am not tall, but if you are bumping spark and throttle levers with your knees when you drive, then you are possibly too tall. And if the steering wheel is constantly dragging against your waistline, then possibly you are too round. And some cars you almost need to be a gymnast to get in and out of. Take the beloved Centerdoor, you need to be pretty flexible to get in and out of the driver's seat. Some of us are just not that flexible anymore. Some

For more Space City T's of Houston info:

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: ModelT@spacecityts.org

of us may never have been that flexible. In most cases, there is little or nothing you can do other than choose a vehicle that may fit you a bit better than another. Steering columns have been shortened, but most of us don't have the means of that in our home shops. An aftermarket "fat man steering wheel" might help, but once you are in the seat, the wheel is right back where Ford designed the stock steering wheel to be.

Such was the case for my 1924 Simms Fire Truck built on a TT chassis. Not only did I need some space for my roundness, there seemed to be no comfortable place for my feet. The relationship between my feet and the pedals and the seat was

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just uncomfortable. Makes me wonder when it was being built, if anyone just sat in the seat to see how it fit. Of course, when the chassis was purchased Ford had pre-mounted the gas tank to the frame, and it was common practice to just build the seat over the gas tank. Even TT trucks, which have Ford bodies, are very tight. In the case of my TT Fire Truck there are the usual pedals and left lever, plus, in this case, a Warford auxiliary transmission shifter lever and a Ruckstell two speed rear axle shifter lever.



So, I got to wondering, what if anything I could do to make the TT Fire Truck more fun to drive. What I concluded was that if I could move the body/apparatus back 3.5 inches everything would be better. Why 3.5 inches you ask? Because that is the actual width of a 1x4 I planned to use as a spacer. Not particularly scientific, but that was the reason. There are three mounting points on each of the two body/apparatus frame rails. The rear

mounting points sit on the wings of the rear crossmember.



I am moving everything from the firewall rearward, all in one lift. Good thing I have an I-beam mounted 6-ton chain hoist in my garage. Since the mid and front frame mounts hold all the forward weight, I wanted to install new brackets to the body/apparatus frame rails before picking up and moving everything. I have a TT frame piece of yard art out back and it turns out that the four brackets I needed were right there and available.



I removed the brackets, cleaned them up, and installed them in place before moving the body.



In addition, it was necessary to move the gas tank too. Three new mounting holes were drilled for remounting the gas tank 3.5 inches to the rear of the original holes. Also, the two rear fenders brackets are mounted to the body/apparatus, so those mounts had to be relocated 3.5 inches forward of the original locations.

New floorboards had to be built, and the "hole" for the pedals had to be reconsidered because the floorboard raised angle wasn't where it had been, but that got worked out okay.



In the end, the plan worked. It is a different and more pleasant vehicle to drive now.



The gap filler at the firewall worked out well, and I doubt that if it is not pointed out, that anyone will notice.



Cars of Dreams Museum

from J. C. Matejka

Thought you might enjoy a bunch of old cars on a video to occupy your time while you stay home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The owner of this museum, and the cars in it, is John Staluppi. The museum is located in North Palm Beach, Florida. Cars of Dreams is a private museum and is only open to the public during special events. If you grew up or were young during the 50's and 60's, this is a must see. This is the most fabulous collection of cars of that era you will ever see.

John Staluppi says he is originally from Brooklyn and then Long Island. He owned a home in West Islip on the Great South Bay and had a huge yacht berthed behind his home. If you saw it you would wonder how it could move in the bay, which is not that deep. He also owned the original Atlantic Auto Mall in West Islip, which is now throughout Suffolk County selling all makes of cars. While this was filmed in Florida, he may still live in West Islip and is probably still the owner of the Auto Mall. Click on link below, don't stop the video when they pause. There aren't any commercials.

[Cars of Dreams YouTube Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

<https://www.carsofdreams.com>

SPRINGTIME TOUR

BY ROSIE STOKLEY & BRUCE CARTER

SAVE THE DATE, SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2021. SEE THE SHOW FLYER ON PAGE 5.

WHERE: LEAVING THE WEST MEMORIAL AREA IN KATY. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF PARKING IN A SCHOOL YARD FOR TRUCKS AND TRAILERS. MORE INFORMATION LATER.

FIRST STOP WILL BE IN SEALY FOR THEIR SPRINGTIME IN THE COUNTRY EVENT, AT THE TEXAS PREMIER SPORTING ARMS LOCATION, IN A LARGE OPEN AREA WITH PLENTY OF SPACE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE

THERE WILL BE A CLASSIC CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW, AND WE WILL BE THE ANTIQUE CARS. THEY WILL LOVE US, AND WE HOPE TO WIN ALL THEIR PRIZES.

WE WILL EAT LUNCH THERE AT THE CASH FOOD TRUCKS, AND THEN DO VENDOR SHOPPING OR ANTIQUING. RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE WITH HANDICAPPED.

FOR A \$1.00 YOU CAN TASTE THE CHILI AND VOTE, ALSO FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT STAY AWHILE, YOU CAN JOIN THE CLAY SHOOT, AND TAKE THE SHORTER COUNTRY ROUTE BACK.

THE REST OF US WILL DRIVE ON A LONGER ROUTE AND GO THROUGH SOME NICE COUNTRY ROADS. THIS WILL BE AN ALL DAY TOUR WITH GREAT DRIVING! WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US. MORE INFORMATION LATER. THE SEALY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF US COMING. STAY SAFE AND BE WELL.

First Ever "Springtime in the Country"

Join us at the first ever Clay Shoot, Car Show and Chili Cook Off in
Sealy, Texas for an all day event

Location: Texas Premier Sporting Arms

311 Hwy 36 South, Sealy, TX 77474

For information: www.sealychamber.com



Clay Shoot Tournament - 1:30 to 6 pm
Event Date: Saturday, April 24, 2021



Car Show - 9 am - 1 pm

Event Location: Texas Premier Sporting Arms



SEALY CHILI DILLY
COOK-OFF

9 am - 1 pm



Vendors, Food and Fun! An ALL DAY EVENT! MORE details to COME...



SEALY
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Space City T's Dues Are Due

Remember, the deadline for dues payment is March 15, 2021. At that time the roster will be compiled according to those paid. Dues are still **\$25.00** per year. Please **print** out this page, **fill out** the form below with your most recent information, and make your check payable to: **Space City T's.**

Please **mail** your dues to the Treasurer at:

Jerry Smith
13723 Llano Lake Court
Houston, Texas 77059

NOTE: Dues are not tax deductible. To do so will jeopardize our club's 501c non-profit status with the IRS

SPACE CITY T's MEMBER ENROLLMENT

Model T Ford Club of America membership # if Applicable _____

Model T Ford Club International membership # if Applicable _____

DATE _____ **CHECK #** _____ **AMOUNT \$** _____

Name: _____ **Spouse** _____

Minor Children (under age 18) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Work:** _____

Cell: _____ **Cell:** _____

E-Mail address: _____

Occupation: _____

Model T's Owned:

Space City T's of Houston Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4: Dues for members admitted to membership between July 1 and December 31 shall pay (1/2) of the annual dues: \$12.50 for the given 1/2 year, \$25.00 per year thereafter.

The Flivver Flash is published by the Space City T's chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America in Houston, Texas twelve times per year. This newsletter is produced for the education and enjoyment of members and those expressing interest in joining the Space City T's. Said education and enjoyment is as it pertains to the Model T Ford automobile. The Flash is also shared with other antique auto clubs. Other clubs may use articles from this publication with credit to this newsletter or the original source. News, articles, ads or anything of interest to the club must be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual dues are \$25 per year.

2021 Space City Club Officers and Board Members

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President | Dave Lucas | 281-388-0761 |
| Vice President | David Carter | 713-875-1049 |
| Secretary | Bruce Carter | 713-703-2958 |
| Treasurer | Jerry Smith | 281-461-9906 |
| Board Member | Nancy Carter | 713-580-3368 |
| Board Member | Bobby Wright | 409-771-5548 |
| Board Member | Anthony J. Marino | 281-482-4156 |

THE FLIVVER FLASH

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302 Torrey Court
League City, TX 77573
281-482-4156

email: modelt@spacecityts.org

2022 Officer Nominations

Please communicate your 2022 club officer nominations to Dave Lucas at (713) 299-3059 or daverlucas@yahoo.com.

New Members Wanted

Please visit our [Space City T's of Houston Texas web site](#) and view our club future and past Model T Ford events and activities.

If interested, please provide your name, address, mobile phone, & email, and make a \$25 check payable to:

Space City T's

Please mail your information and check to the Treasurer at:

Jerry Smith
13723 Llano Lake Court
Houston, TX 77059

The Space City T's Club is the Houston, Texas chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. All questions concerning membership, The Vintage Ford magazine, the MTFCA library, chapter insurance, purchase of manuals, back magazine issues, or store items can be directed to the following:

Model T Ford Club of America

309 N. 8th Street, PO BOX 996
Richmond, IN 47375-0996
Phone: 765-855-5248

Email: rachel@mtfca.com

\$40 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford

Join MTFCA at: www.mtfca.com



ANTIQUE AUTO
MODEL A & MODEL T SPECIALIST

ROSS LILLEKER

979.218.4083
WWW.MRMODEL.COM

For Sale: 1929 Model A Boat-Tail Speedster



2016 Keels & Wheels pics

'Boat-tail' is from two 1947 International pickup hoods, 4 cylinder Model A motor with Stromberg downdraft carburetor, & modern intake manifold, Kelsey 16" bent spoke wheels, and rebuilt electrical system.

\$13500 OBO

Anthony J. Marino
832-607-8528 mobile or
281-482-4156 home,
leave a message or
topkick7@gmail.com

FLIVVER FLASH INPUTS NEEDED

Do you have something to share? A barn find, funny or not so funny Model T stories? Tour photos, or articles about Model T's? Your Model T acquisition stories, restoration photos or swap meet finds? A special interest article?

Please email ads, articles, photos, stories, etc. etc. to: topkick7@outlook.com

Next Meeting Cancelled

February 10, 2021



**Dine with Friends at
Demeris BBQ at 6:00 P.M.**

located at

**1702 West Loop North,
Suite A, Houston, TX 77008**

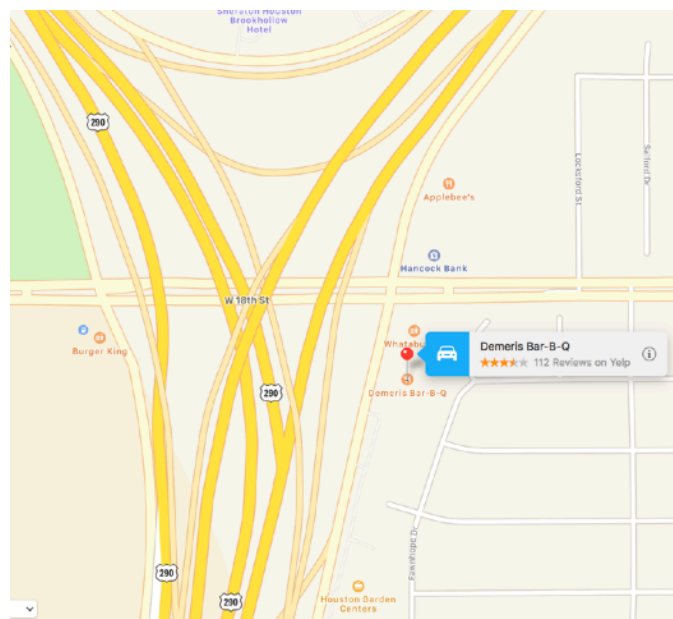
**Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

Place:

**Lazy Brook Baptist Church
—1822 West 18th Street in the
Heights**

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org



Directions to Demeris BBQ

From the east or west on I-10 or the south side of downtown, take the I-610 West Loop North and get off at the 18th Street Exit. Demeris BBQ will be immediately on the right after Houston Garden Nursery.

From the west on Highway 290, exit at Mangum and turn right to 18th Street. At 18th, turn left, cross under West Loop and turn into the Whataburger parking lot on the right. Proceed to Demeris BBQ after the Whataburger.

From the north on I-45, take the 610 North Loop West around to the I-610 West Loop South to the Hempstead Highway exit. Make a U-turn under I-610 and proceed north on the frontage road to just before 18th Street, Demeris BBQ will be on your right after Houston Garden Center.



First Class Mail



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302 Torrey Court
League City, Texas 77573

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